

Zawitoski, John

From: Criss, Jeremy
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 5:50 PM
To: Ike Leggett; Siok, Pat
Cc: 'David Weitzer'; Silverman, Steve; Hughes, Jennifer; 'BCISSEL@aol.com'; Zawitoski, John
Subject: Follow up from the Annual Meeting with the County Executive and the Agricultural Advisory Committee

Attachments: AACCEAnnualMeeting4-9-13.doc

Hello Ike and Pat,

Attached you will find a letter thanking the County Executive for the annual meeting with the Agricultural Advisory Committee including the follow up items that were discussed.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks and have a great weekend. J

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AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett:

Follow up from the Annual meeting with the
Agricultural Advisory Committee and the
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC, I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with us on April 9, 2013 to discuss the needs of the DED Agricultural Services Division and the programs and services they provide to the agricultural community.

Our Committee is grateful to you for your continued support to the agricultural community. Paula Linthicum was correct in saying that you always attend our agricultural events and activities and you genuinely listen to us and help us.

It was a good opportunity for updating you on the funding strategy for the DED-Agricultural Services Division that you approved in December 2010. Bob Cissel representing the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-APAB and I explained the details surrounding the projected deficit in FY16 associated with the source of funding for Agricultural Services. Thank you for acknowledging the agricultural community stepping up and providing private contributions of funds for the past two and half years to help the County and Agricultural Services. We hope our unique action will be favorably remembered as budget restorations are considered.

We discussed during our meeting how the upcoming FY15-16 Bi-Annual CIP represents the next step to begin discussions on the projected deficit in FY16 for Agricultural Services expenses and the migration of these expenses back to the County's General Fund. We will need your support once again to make sure your administration understands the importance of protecting the Agricultural Reserve including the programs and services offered by the DED-Agricultural Services Division.

The Committee discussed during the April 16, 2013 monthly meeting the status of Bill 34-12 Stormwater Management-Water Quality Protection Charge. We learned that collections of excise tax on disposable bags are higher than original projections. We also learned that for FY13

a total of \$561,640 of the excise tax on disposable bags is allocated to the DEP-Water Quality Protection Fund. Our Committee questions the decision to allocate these new County resources to DEP in light of the agricultural community private contributions previously mentioned in addition to the projected FY16 deficit in the DED-Agricultural Services Division.

We sincerely hope that as the economy improves the County will reinstate its commitment to the agricultural community and the funding needed to sustain all of the agricultural agencies (Montgomery Soil Conservation District-MSCD and UME-Extension) funded through the DED-Agricultural Services Division. The MSCD is charged with fulfilling the EPA mandate of Chesapeake Bay Cleanup including the County TMDL goals for the rural and agricultural areas of the County. You recently received a proposal from the MSCD Board of Supervisors for allocating a portion of the DEP-Water Quality Protection Charge to the MSCD. Rural property owners including farmers rely on the programs and services offered by MSCD to assist in the implementation of Best Management Practices that are necessary in meeting the TMDL goals. Additional County resources must be allocated to the MSCD for the County to meet the EPA mandate and TMDL goals for restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

The AAC would like to thank you again for meeting with us and we look forward to working with you on the future funding strategy for the Agricultural Services Division and the agricultural agencies funded through the Division.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Weitzer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Weitzer, Chairman

Steve Silverman, Director, DED

Jennifer Hughes, Director, OMB

Members of the AAC and APAB



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

May 14, 2013

David Weitzer, Chairman
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Agricultural Services Division
18410 Muncaster Road
Derwood, Maryland 20855

Dear Mr. Weitzer: *David*

Thank you for your letter outlining the funding needs of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board (APAB) which we discussed during our meeting on April 9th.

As you outlined in your letter, revenues from the excise tax on disposable plastic bags have exceeded the original FY13 projection. Though this situation has created additional revenues for the County, the manner in which we may spend revenues from the bag tax is defined in law. Under current law, revenues from the bag tax must be deposited into the Water Quality Protection Fund and be used to fund County Stormwater Management activities.

Your letter also specifically noted the Montgomery Soil Conservation District and the UME-Extension and their work towards improving Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals for rural and agricultural areas of the County and also restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The County is engaged, through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in similar efforts related to the County's MS4 permit.

To address the increased needs of both the AAC and APAB we discussed, I recommend both boards continue to consult DEP during their formulation of their Operating and CIP budgets to discuss how the rural and agricultural work you described could compete with other budget priorities in the Water Quality Protection Fund. Formulation of the FY15 DEP Operating and CIP budgets will begin this summer.

David Weitzer, Chairman
Agricultural Advisory Committee
May 14, 2013
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To discuss the County's Stormwater Management program and the related budget, please contact Steve Shofar in the Department of Environmental Protection at 240-777-7736 or via e-mail at steven.shofar@montgomerycountymd.gov.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Isiah Leggett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

- c: Steve Silverman, Department of Economic Development
- Robert Hoyt, Department of Environmental Protection
- Jennifer Hughes, Office of Management and Budget
- Fariba Kassiri, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
- Matt Schaeffer, Office of Management and Budget